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OLL 84-0539
3 February 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Soviet Antiballistic Missile System

1. On 3 February 1984, Larry Gershwin, National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs briefed House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) staff members Tom Latimer, Mike O'Neill, Leon Fuerth and Steve Berry on Soviet efforts to deploy a missile defense system nationwide in the early 1990s. The two and one-half hour briefing took place in room H-405 the Capitol; no transcript was taken. [redacted] 25X1

2. Mr. Gershwin began with an explanation of the special importance the Soviets attach to an effective missile defense system. He pointed out cultural and historical factors that contribute to Soviet concern with missile defense; a concern that far exceeds interest in the US for an American ABM system. Mr. Gershwin discussed Soviet research efforts over the last decade and other evidence of Moscow's solid commitment to missile defenses. He was questioned about why the Soviets agreed to the restraints of the ABM treaty of 1972, given Moscow's determination to improve its defensive capabilities. Moscow's short-term tactical interests were discussed in contrast to its longer-range objectives which now apparently take priority. [redacted] 25X1

3. Mr. Gershwin outlined what the Soviets are doing now to upgrade the Moscow system and to expand radar coverage and launch sites. [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1 Mr. Gershwin also touched on Soviet R&D efforts on lasers in three areas: air defense; anti-satellite; and ground-based ballistic defense. [redacted] 25X1

4. The HPSCI staffers expressed appreciation for the briefing and did not pose any follow-up questions. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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